

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05  
L-03 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 DOE-15 SOE-02  
TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 OPIC-03 HA-05 /102 W  
-----090105 230840Z /14

R 211200Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0004  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE  
AMCONSUL DOUALA

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USEEC

E.O.11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAID, EGEN, EWWT, ELTN, CT  
SUBJ: RIVER ROUTE TO SEA BLOCKED BY LOW WATER; CAE REQUESTS  
INTERNATIONAL AID

REF: DOUALA 174 (NOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER PATASSE APPEALED MARCH 20 FOR INTERNATIONAL AID, PARTICULARLY FROM THE EEC, BECAUSE "DRAUGHT" HAD CLOSED THE CAE'S MAIN LINK WITH THE SEA, THE OUBANGUI RIVER. PATASSE EXPLAINED TO DIPLOMATS, AID OFFICIALS, MINISTERS AND CIVIL SERVANTS ASSEMBLED TO HEAR HIS APPEAL THAT CAE HAS IN RECENT YEARS INCREASINGLY FELT THE EFFECTS OF SAHELEAN DROUGHTS. HE NOTED NAVIGATION DIFFICULTIES IN 1974. THIS YEAR, THE RIVER HAD ALREADY BEEN CLOSED FOR 12 DAYS, HE SAID. RECENT RAINS HAD HELPED ONLY SLIGHTLY, AND THE RIVER WAS LIKELY TO REMAIN CLOSED FOR  
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ANOTHER 2 OR 3 MONTHS.

2. PATASSE WARNED AGAINST WASTE AND HOARDING. HE SAID THAT THE CAE WOULD SEEK TO IMPORT ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES, PARTICULARLY PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, BY ROAD FROM CAMEROON. HE THEN REQUESTED "EXCEPTIONAL AID" FROM THE EEC, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE LOME CONVENTION IN CASE OF NATURAL DISASTERS. HE ALSO ASKED THAT

INDUSTRIAL POWERS AIDING THE SAHELEAN COUNTRIES CONSIDER THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE DESERT AND THE CONSEQUENT EFFECT OF THE DROUGHT ON COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE CAE. HE PROMISED TO SUPPLY DOCUMENTATION ON THIS AND ASKED AID DONORS TO SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CAE TO SEE THE SITUATION FIRST-HAND. HE ASKED COUNTRIES NEIGHBORING THE CAE TO HELP SENSITIZE AID DONORS TO THIS PROBLEM. FINALLY, PATASSE URGED DONORS TO CONSIDER THE CAE'S LONG-DESIRED RAIL LINK TO THE SEA AS THE LONG-RANGE SOLUTION TO THE TRANSPORT PROBLEM POSED BY THE RECURRENT DROUGHT CONDITIONS.

3. COMMENT: REFTEL REPORTS THAT THE GOCAE IS ALREADY MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR SHIPMENT OF POL FROM DOUALA VIA ROAD. GASOLINE PRICES HAVE ALREADY BEEN INCREASED 25 PER CENT, PRESUMABLY TO COMPENSATE FOR INCREASED COSTS AND POSSIBLY ALSO TO REDUCE CONSUMPTION. LAST FALL, WHEN THE CAE CHARGED CONGO WITH DIVERSION OF CAE POL SUPPLIES, THE EEC SAID IT WOULD CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR EXCEPTIONAL AID TO COVER THE ADDITIONAL TRANSPORT COST VIA ROAD FROM DOUALA IN COMPARISON TO THE COST VIA THE NORMAL ROUTE THROUGH BRAZZAVILLE AND UP THE OUBANGUI. THE LOCAL OFFICE OF THE EEC-FINANCED EUROPEAN DEVELOPMENT FUND TELLS US THAT EEC AID IS LIKELY IN THE PRESENT SITUATION ONLY IF THE CAE CAN PRESENT CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THIS YEAR'S LOW WATER IS AN UNPREDICTABLE NATURAL DISASTER RATHER THAN A CONTINGENCY FOR WHICH THE CAE SHOULD HAVE BEEN PREPARED. ACCORDING TO EXPATRIATE ADVISERS IN THE STATE-RUN RIVER TRANSPORT COMPANY, THE RIVER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS INDEED VERY LOW BUT NOT AS LOW AS IT HAS FALLEN IN THE VERY WORST YEARS.  
SMITH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** RIVERS, SEA WATER, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780127-1164  
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**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** 78 DOUALA 174  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 apr 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3261907  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RIVER ROUTE TO SEA BLOCKED BY LOW WATER; CAE REQUESTS INTERNATIONAL AID  
**TAGS:** EAID, EGEN, EWWT, ELTN, CT  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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